CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1 (currently amended): A method using a pull cord operatively connected to a rotatable shaft to reversibly rotate the shaft, the method comprising the steps:

~~providing first and second rotatable shafts; pull cord means for rotating the first shaft in a selected direction when the pull cord means is pulled; means for retracting the pull cord means; means for converting rotation of the first shaft in the selected direction into rotation of the second shaft, said converting means being settable in first and second conditions for respectively converting rotation of the first shaft in the selected direction into rotation of the second shaft in first and second opposite directions; and means operatively connected to the converting means and responsive to pulling movement of the pull cord means in first and second directions for selectively setting the converting means in the first and second conditions as the cord means is pulled;~~

(a) pulling ~~the pull cord means in the~~ a pull cord in a first direction, thereby rotating ~~the shaft in the~~ a first shaft in a selected direction and converting rotation of the first shaft into rotation of a second shaft in a first direction;

(b) retracting the pull cord ~~means~~; and

(c) pulling the pull cord ~~means in the~~ in a second direction, thereby rotating the ~~shaft in the~~ first shaft in the selected direction and converting rotation of the first shaft into rotation of the second shaft in a second direction~~, opposite the first direction~~.

2 (currently amended): A method using a pull cord operatively connected to a rotatable shaft having a load attached thereto to selectively rotate the shaft in opposite directions and thereby position the load, the method comprising the steps:

~~providing first and second rotatable shafts; pull cord means for rotating the first shaft in a selected direction when the pull cord means is pulled; means for retracting the pull cord means; means for converting rotation of the first shaft in the selected direction into rotation of the second shaft, said converting means being settable in first and second conditions for respectively converting rotation of the first shaft in the selected direction into rotation of the second shaft in first and second opposite directions; and means responsive to pulling movement of the pull cord means in first and second directions for selectively setting the converting means in the first and second conditions as the pull cord means is pulled;~~

(a) pulling ~~the pull cord means~~ a pull cord in a direction selected from ~~the first~~ first and second, different pull directions, thereby rotating ~~the shaft in a direction selected from the~~ a first shaft in a selected direction and converting rotation of the first shaft in the selected direction into rotation of a second shaft in a direction selected from first and second, opposite directions of rotation, the first and second directions of rotation being selected by the first and second pull directions, respectively;

(b) returning the ~~pull cord means~~ pull cord; and

(c) repeating steps (a) and (b) ~~as required to move the load to a selected position~~.

3 (currently amended): A reversible pull cord mechanism, comprising:

first and second rotatable shafts;

pull cord means operatively connected to the first shaft and to the second shaft and including a pull cord for rotating the first shaft in a selected direction when the ~~pull cord means~~ pull cord is pulled;

means operatively connected to the pull cord means and responsive to pulling the pull cord ~~pull cord means~~ in different directions for rotating the first shaft in a selected direction; and

means operatively connected to the first shaft and to the second shaft and responsive to pulling the pull cord in two of said different directions for converting rotation of the first shaft in the selected direction into rotation of the second shaft in two opposite directions.

4 (currently amended): A reversible pull cord mechanism, comprising:

first and second rotatable shafts;

pull cord means including a pull cord and operatively connected to the first shaft for rotating the first shaft in a selected direction when the ~~pull cord means~~ pull cord is pulled;

means for retracting the ~~pull cord means~~ pull cord;

means for converting rotation of the first shaft in the selected direction into rotation of the second shaft, said converting means being settable in first and second conditions for ~~respectively~~ converting rotation of the first shaft in the selected direction into rotation of the second shaft in first and second directions, respectively ; and

means responsive to pulling movement of the ~~pull cord means~~ pull cord in first and second directions for selectively setting the converting means in the first and second conditions, respectively, as the ~~cord means~~ pull cord is pulled.

5 (currently amended): A reversible pull cord mechanism, comprising:

a retractable pull cord mechanism comprising: a first rotatable shaft; a pulley operatively connected to the first rotatable shaft for rotating the first rotatable shaft; pull cord

means including a pull cord wrapped around the pulley for rotating the pulley and the first rotatable shaft when the ~~cord means~~ pull cord is pulled away from the pulley; and means operatively connected to the first rotatable shaft for rewinding the ~~cord means~~ pull cord when the ~~cord means~~ pull cord is released;

a second rotatable shaft operatively connected to the first rotatable shaft for rotating the second rotatable shaft when the first rotatable shaft rotates;

shifting means adapted for positioning in first and second positions for converting single direction rotation of the first rotatable shaft into rotation of the second rotatable shaft in first and second directions; and

connecting means connecting the pull cord means to the shifting means for setting the shifting means in said first and second positions in response to the ~~pull cord means~~ pull cord being pulled in first and second directions.

6 (currently amended): A reversible rotation pull cord mechanism, comprising:

a retractable pull cord mechanism, comprising: a first rotatable shaft; a pulley operatively connected to the first rotatable shaft for rotating the first rotatable shaft; pull cord means, including a pull cord wrapped around the pulley for rotating the pulley and the first rotatable shaft when the ~~cord means~~ pull cord is pulled away from the pulley; and rewind means operatively connected to the first rotatable shaft for rewinding the ~~cord means~~ pull cord when the ~~cord means~~ pull cord is released;

a transmission ~~mechanism~~ including a second rotatable shaft operatively connected to the first rotatable shaft for rotating the second shaft when the first shaft rotates; the transmission ~~means~~ further comprising shifting means adapted for being positioned in at least first and second positions for converting single direction rotation of the first rotatable shaft into rotation of the second rotatable shaft in first and second directions; and

connecting means connecting the pull cord means to the shifting means for setting the transmission ~~mechanism~~ in said first and second positions in response to the ~~pull cord means~~ pull cord being pulled in first and second directions.

7 (currently amended): The reversible pull cord mechanism of claim 6, wherein:

the transmission ~~mechanism~~ comprises: a first gear operatively mounted on the first rotatable shaft for rotating therewith in a first direction; a second gear meshed with the first gear for rotating in a second direction, opposite the first direction; and a third, output gear; and wherein

the shifting means comprises fourth and fifth gears; a movable shaft mounting the fourth and fifth gears at spaced apart locations along said movable shaft with the fifth gear maintained meshed with the third, output gear; said movable shaft being mounted for arcuate movement between said first position, at which the fourth gear meshes with the first gear for rotating the fifth gear with the first gear and said second position, at which the fourth gear meshes with the second gear for rotating the fifth gear with the second gear; and wherein

said connecting means operatively connects the pull cord means to said movable shaft for moving said movable shaft to the said first and second positions.

8 (original): The reversible pull cord mechanism of claim 7, said connecting means further comprising: first spring means comprising a first arm or section mounted proximate the shifting means for rotating movement; a second arm or section mounted proximate one end to and extending from the first arm and mounted proximate a second end to the movable shaft of the shifting means for moving the movable shaft between and to said first and second positions upon rotation of the first arm; and a third arm mounted to and extending from the

first arm for rotating the first arm, thereby pivoting the second arm and moving the movable shaft between and to said first and second positions.

9 (currently amended): The reversible rotation pull cord mechanism of claim 6, wherein

the transmission ~~mechanism~~ comprises: a first gear operatively mounted on the first rotatable shaft for rotating therewith in a first direction; a second gear meshed with the first gear for rotating in a second direction, opposite the first direction; and a third, output gear; and wherein

the shifting means of the transmission ~~means~~ comprises fourth and fifth gears; a movable shaft mounting the fourth and fifth gears at spaced apart locations along said movable shaft with the fifth gear maintained meshed with the third, output gear; said movable shaft being mounted for arcuate movement among and to said first position, in which the fourth gear meshes with the first gear for rotating the fifth gear with the first gear, said second position, in which the fourth gear meshes with the second gear for rotating the fifth gear with the second gear, and a third, neutral position between said first and second positions at which the fourth gear is disengaged from the first and second gears; and wherein

said connecting means operatively connects the pull cord means to said movable shaft for moving said movable shaft among and to said first, second and third positions.

10 (currently amended): The reversible pull cord mechanism of claim 9, said connecting means further comprising:

first spring means comprising a first arm or section mounted proximate the shifting means for rotating movement; a second arm or section mounted proximate one end

to and extending from the first arm and mounted proximate a second end to the movable shaft of the shifting means for moving the movable shaft among and to said three positions upon rotation of the first arm; and a third arm mounted to and extending from the first arm for rotating the first arm, thereby pivoting the second arm and moving the movable shaft among and to said three positions; and the third arm having an aperture therein receiving the pull cord in sliding engagement such that pulling the pull cord in first and second directions moves the movable shaft to said first and second positions; and

second spring means mounted proximate the first spring means and having a detent positioned such that when the pull cord is released, the detent releasably engages the first spring means and positions the first spring means in said neutral third position, and disengages from the first spring when the pull cord is pulled in the first or second direction.

11 (currently amended): A pull cord-operated retractable cover system, comprising:

(1) a cover system comprising: a housing; a plurality of rotatable pulleys mounted on or to the housing; a cover; cords wound around the pulleys and connected to the cover for extending the cover from the housing and retracting the cover to the housing; and

(2) a reversible pull cord mechanism, comprising:

(a) retractable pull cord means comprising: a first rotatable shaft; a pulley operatively connected to the first rotatable shaft for rotating the first rotatable shaft; ~~cord means~~ a pull cord wrapped around the pulley for rotating the pulley and the first rotatable shaft when the ~~cord means~~ pull cord is pulled away from the pulley; and means operatively connected to the first rotatable shaft for rewinding the ~~cord means~~ pull cord when the ~~cord means~~ pull cord is released;

(b) a transmission ~~mechanism~~ including a second rotatable shaft and being operatively connected to the first rotatable shaft for rotating the second rotatable shaft when the first rotatable shaft rotates; the transmission ~~means~~ further comprising shifting means adapted for positioning in first and second positions for converting single direction rotation of the first rotatable shaft into rotation of the second rotatable shaft in first and second directions; and

(c) means connecting the pull cord means to the shifting means and setting the transmission ~~mechanism~~ in said first and second positions in response to the ~~pull cord means~~ pull cord being pulled in first and second directions.

12 (currently amended): The cover system of claim 11, wherein:

the transmission ~~mechanism~~ comprises: a first gear operatively mounted on the first rotatable shaft for rotating therewith in a first direction; a second gear meshed with the first gear for rotating in a second direction, opposite the first direction; a third, output gear; and wherein:

the shifting means of the transmission ~~means~~ comprises fourth and fifth gears; a movable shaft mounting the fourth and fifth gears at spaced apart locations along said movable shaft with the fifth gear maintained meshed with the third, output gear; said movable shaft being mounted for arcuate movement between said first position, in which the fourth gear meshes with the first gear for rotating the fifth gear with the first gear and said second position, in which the fourth gear meshes with the second gear for rotating the fifth gear with the second gear; and wherein:

said connecting means operatively connects the pull cord means to said movable shaft for moving said movable shaft to said first and second positions.

13 (original): The cover system of claim 12, said connecting means further comprising first spring means comprising a first arm or section mounted proximate the shifting means for rotating movement; a second arm or section mounted proximate one end to and extending from the first arm and mounted proximate a second end to said movable shaft of the shifting means for moving said movable shaft between and to said first and second positions upon rotation of the first arm; and a third arm mounted to and extending from the first arm for rotating the first arm, thereby pivoting the second arm and moving the movable shaft between and to said two positions.

14 (currently amended): The cover system of claim 11, wherein:

the transmission ~~mechanism~~ comprises: a first gear operatively mounted on the first rotatable shaft for rotating therewith in a first direction; a second gear meshed with the first gear for rotating in a second direction, opposite the first direction; and a third, output gear; and wherein:

the shifting means of the transmission ~~means~~ comprises fourth and fifth gears; a movable shaft mounting the fourth and fifth gears at spaced apart locations along said movable shaft with the fifth gear maintained meshed with the third, output gear; said movable shaft being mounted for arcuate movement among and to said first position, in which the fourth gear meshes with the first gear for rotating the fifth gear with the first gear, said second position, in which the fourth gear meshes with the second gear for rotating the fifth gear with the second gear, and a third, neutral position between said first and second positions in which the fourth gear is disengaged from the first and second gears; and wherein:

said connecting means operatively connects the pull cord means to said movable shaft for moving the movable shaft among and to said first, second and third positions.

15 (currently amended): The cover system of claim 14, said connecting further comprising:

first spring means comprising a first arm or section mounted proximate the shifting means for rotating movement; a second arm or section mounted proximate one end to and extending from the first arm and mounted proximate a second end to the movable shaft of the shifting means for moving the movable shaft among and to said three positions upon rotation of the first arm; and a third arm mounted to and extending from the first arm for rotating the first arm, thereby pivoting the second arm and moving said movable shaft among and to said three positions; and the third arm having an aperture therein receiving the pull cord in sliding engagement such that pulling the pull cord in first and second directions moves said movable shaft to said first and second positions; and

second spring means mounted proximate the first spring means and having a detent positioned such that when the pull cord is released, the detent releasably engages the first spring means and positions the first spring means in said neutral third position, and disengages from the first spring when the pull cord is pulled in the first or second direction.